

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 /164 W

----- 083984

P R 262019Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 722

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 9755

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS - FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: ISSUE OF STABILIZING MEASURES

REF: VIENNA 9719

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 26 ON VARIOUS MATTERS, WITH FRG AND UK REPS, US REP RAISED ISSUE OF PRE-REDUCTION STABILIZING MEASURES. MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS AND THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON SUBJECT, US REP OUTLINED SOME OF FACTORS IN PRESENT SITUATION WHICH APPEARED TO CAST NEW LIGHT ON ISSUE OF DESIRABILITY OF HAVING DISCUSSION OF STABILIZING MEASURES PRIOR TO ENTERING MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF REDUCTIONS. MAKING POINTS ON LINE OF PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REFTL, US REP SAID HE WAS AWARE AGREED NATO MBFR POSITION PAPER ENVISAGED DISCUSSION OF CONSTRAINTS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION OF REDUCTIONS, BUT

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CERTAIN CHANGES HAD OCCURRED IN THE SITUATION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN

INTO ACCOUNT. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO CONSIDER THE MERITS OF DEFERRING RAISING STABILIZING MEASURES UNTIL AT SOME POINT DURING RPT DURING DISCUSSION OF REDUCTIONS WHEN THE ISSUE OF STABILIZING MEASURES COULD BE INTRODUCED CONCURRENTLY, AT A POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE OF EASTERN RECEPTIVITY TO THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN CREATED AND WHEN IT WOULD BE CLEAR TO THE EAST THAT THE PROPOSED MEASURES RELATED TO THE REDUCTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION. SUCH A DELAY WOULD ALSO GIVE THE COUNCIL TIME FOR A DETAILED STUDY ON WHICH MEASURES WERE CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND TO AGREE ON THE ESSENTIAL DETAILS.

2. FRG REP (BEHREND) COMMENTED HE AGREED WITH THE LOGIC OF THESE VIEWS, BUT THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NOVEMBER 29 SPC DISCUSSION OF STABILIZING MEASURES. IF THERE STILL WERE NO MOVEMENT AT THAT TIME, THEN IT WOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT NO NATO DECISION WOULD BE MADE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO DROP THE IDEA OF PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS AND TO INTRODUCE STABILIZING MEASURES AT A FAVORABLE TIME IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. UK REP (ROSE) COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED THE ALLIES WERE COMMITTED TO PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS BY THE AGREED NATO PAPER, BUT THAT US REP HAD MADE A SOUND CASE TO DROP THEM IN THE LIGHT OF ACUTAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, SINCE NATO HAD AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE PRE-REDUCTMION CONSTRAINTS, IT SEEMED AN UNWISE IDEA TO TAMPER WITH AGREED ALLIED POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF AN AS YET LIMITED INDICATION OF EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER BEGINNING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DISCUSSION OF US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS. IN ANY EVENT, THIS WAS A MATTER WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL. SOMEONE SHOULD PROBABLY RAISE THE CASE FOR DROPPING PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS IN THE COUNCIL ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE UK WOULD WISH TO DO SO. HE HIMSELF HAD RECENTLY INFORMED LONDON THAT LONDON SHOULD EITHER AGREE ON A MINIMUM PROGRAM OF STABILIZING MEASURES TO INCLUDE THE ITEMS ON PRE-NOTIFICATION OF MOVEMENTS INTO THE AREA AND OF EXERCISES, OR GIVE UP THE IDEA OF PRE-REDUCTION

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CONSTRAINTS IN FAVOR OF SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF STABILIZING MEASURES.

4. COMMENT: IF STABILIZING MEASURES WERE NOT INTRODUCED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL A LATER TIME, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT MEASURE NO 1, PRENOTIFICATION OF ENTRY OF US AND SOVIET FORCES INTO THE AREA, WOULD BE SUBSUMED IN A MORE STRINGENT FORM UNDER A NON-

CIRCUMVENTING HEADING. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT BE TACTICALLY WORTHWHILE TO CONSIDER ALSO PLACING MEASURE NO 2 ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF EXERCISES AND MEASURE NO 3 LIMITING THE SIZE AND EXTENT OF EXERCISES UNDER THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION HEADING AS FAR AS THEY APPLIED TO US AND SOVIET FORCES. THIS SHOULD MAKE THE MEASURES MORE SALEABLE TO THE SOVIETS. THE LATTER IN TURN WOULD PRESUMABLY THEMSELVES BE INTERESTED IN APPLYING PARALLEL MEASURES TO NATO EUROPEAN FORCES. HOWEVER, THIS IS A POINT FOR LATER CONSIDERATION.

5. AS REGARDS COUNCIL ACTION ON STABILIZING MEASURES, WHAT WE WOULD MOST WISH TO AVOID IS A SITUATION IN WHICH THE COUNCIL TAKES NO ACTION ON STABILIZING MEASURES PRIOR TO EARLY JANUARY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE OF THE VIEWS OF SOME STICKLERS FOR FORM, REFUSES TO PERMIT ALLIES TO CONTINUE WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MORE DETAILED VIEWS ON REDUCTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A DECISION. THIS IS A SITUATION WE WOULD FORESEE UNLESS THE LOG JAM CAN BE BROKEN IN NEXT WEEKS.HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA09755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731112/aaaaaios.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENNA 9719
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: ISSUE OF STABILIZING MEASURES
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005